



To Listen to recording:

<https://myhealthplan.webex.com/myhealthplan/ldr.php?RCID=313762c1c690f1f89cf488e758971879>

Past Network Call Notes are available at:

[http://www.dot.state.mn.us/mnsaferoutes/news/network\\_calls.html](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/mnsaferoutes/news/network_calls.html)

*Please note: recordings of the Network Calls are archived for 6 months only.*





## THE MINNESOTA SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL NETWORK...

...is approximately 180 dedicated professionals from organizations and agencies that are advancing Safe Routes to School (SRTS) in Minnesota...

...that builds skills in Minnesota communities to successfully implement SRTS, supporting partnerships between state and local agencies, municipalities, and advocacy organizations, and advocating for policy changes to support walking and bicycling to schools and improvements to the built environment...





...and makes Minnesota a state where all students, no matter their race, ethnicity, income level, age, ability, or geographic location, can walk and bicycle on routes that are safe, comfortable and convenient...

...because to be able to walk and bike safely makes health, learning, communities, and independence better for all of us.

2 page printable version sent with PDF of meeting notes

## AGENDA

- Welcome and Introduction
- State Policy Update
- Presentation: Aligning MN Walks Strategies with SRTS  
Presenter: Jasna Hadzik-Stanek, MnDOT
- Discussion: Leveraging SHIP Resources for Implementation
- Walk Bike to School Recap
- Announcements

Confidential and proprietary.

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**Session ends May 22. If they do not reach a budget there could be a partial state shut down.**

**For updates Follow on Facebook:**

**<https://www.facebook.com/MinnesotansforHealthyKidsCoalition/>**

**Active Transportation:** The House and Senate negotiated a compromise and passed their omnibus transportation conference committee report on Monday. Gov. Dayton vetoed the bill for many reasons, so they are back to the negotiating table to revive another omnibus transportation bill before the end of session. Since our language establishing an active transportation program was included in the first conference committee report, we are very hopeful that we will be able to establish the statewide active transportation program in the final transportation bill. However, the version in the first bill did not include any funding source for the program so **we are advocating hard that the next iteration of the bill includes ongoing dedicated funding for active transportation. (Safe Routes to School would be an eligible use of the funds through the new active transportation program if enacted.)**

**Safe Routes to School:** In other good news more specific to **SRTS**, the omnibus transportation conference committee report also included a small one-time increase in funding for Safe Routes to School infrastructure (\$1M). We are still working hard to get the \$6M we need for SRTS infrastructure in the bonding bill. The Senate's version of the omnibus bonding bill includes \$6M; the House version of the omnibus bonding bill has \$1.652M included (the House bonding bill did not have the requisite super-majority to pass on the House floor on Wed. May 17<sup>th</sup>); and Gov. Dayton did not include SRTS in his bonding bill but rather hoped to secure additional money within the transportation bill. We will keep fighting for the Senate's version in the final bill! The bonding bill requires a 2/3 majority of the House and Senate to pass, which makes it more difficult

to strike a deal—but we are hopeful they will get it done this year since they couldn't pass the bill last year in the “bonding session”.

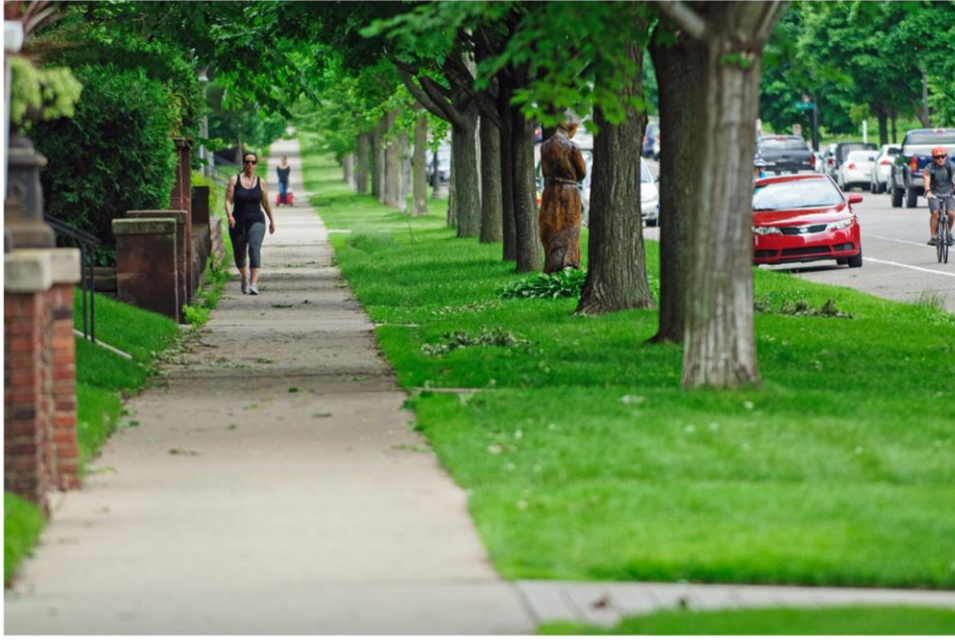
# **MINNESOTA WALKS**

**ALIGNING MN WALKS STRATEGIES WITH SAFE ROUTES  
TO SCHOOL**



**SRTS NETWORK CALL | 16 FEBRUARY 2017**

# Why do we need Minnesota Walks?



What doesn't work? What prevents walking?

Lack of connections and routes

E.g. no safe connections to nearby destinations

Feeling that pedestrians are second class citizens and not considered in day-to-day or in projects

E.g. road projects ignore peds without big advocacy push

Crossings and intersections are inconvenient and dangerous

E.g. wait times take forever; right turners never look for peds to the right

Routes are unusable (ADA), deserted, unpleasant

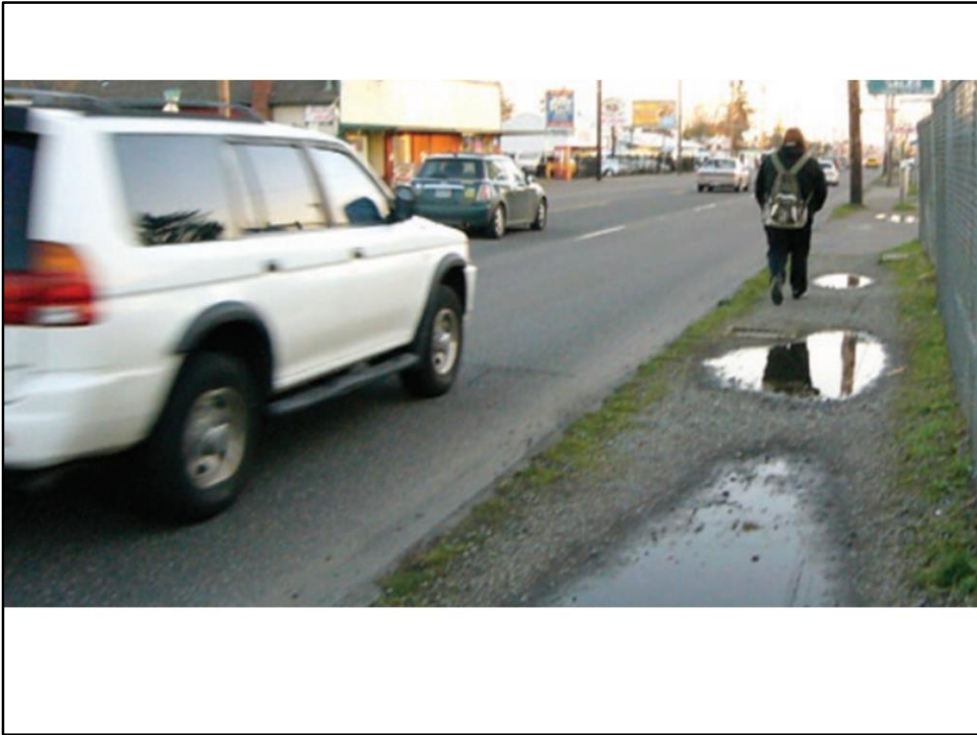
E.g. scary to walk alone, if wheelchair gets caught, nobody there

Poor maintenance and lack of way to report issues

E.g. confusion about how to report issues (snow on curb ramp); rarely successfully addressed because passed around to jurisdictions

Personal barriers

E.g. I'm too tired at the end of the day; I shouldn't walk alone at night







Safety while walking to and from school is cited as the highest concern for parents and their children. **Timperio, 2004** This is because of barriers such as **high speed roads and a lack of pedestrian infrastructure** to guarantee safety. In many places there are **no sidewalks or shared use paths connecting homes to schools**. Even where crosswalks or other pedestrian infrastructure may exist, **they often occur in illogical places, making a trip longer, and children will create their own, more direct “desire paths”**. *Safe Routes to School, 2015*



## What is Minnesota Walks?

- ✚ Formerly known as the Statewide Pedestrian System Plan
- ✚ A framework for action for creating safe, convenient and desirable walking and rolling for ALL
- ✚ Who is MN Walks for?
  - ✚ Local agencies
  - ✚ Regional Organizations
  - ✚ State Departments
  - ✚ Advocacy Groups





## Goals

- ✚ More people walking
- ✚ Improving walking for all purposes
- ✚ Healthier people
- ✚ Improving accessibility and encouraging connections
- ✚ Improving safety
- ✚ Stronger communities

## Priority Populations

- American Indian
- **Children and Youth**
- Low Income Urban
- Older Adults
- People with Disabilities
- Small Rural Communities



*Minnesota Walks* identified possible priority populations who would most benefit from pedestrian-level improvements throughout Minnesota.

Additionally, populations experiencing a higher rate of health issues where safer places to walk could help include:

- People of color
- People with less education
- Women
- Lower-income groups

# ENGAGEMENT GOALS

## HIGH LEVEL INFORMATION

Online Engagement and Community Events



## DEEPER INFORMATION

Focus Groups and Walking Workshops



**Many of the community events attended were selected because they were family-friendly, open to people of all ages, or related to a school event.**

To engage with youth, the project team used the community gathering engagement toolkit at events where many children were expected. **Children and teens generally found the sticker dot voting easy and fun.** Young children were also drawn in by the children's map game board activity and some narrated the trip on the page.

Led us to a few different approaches

High level information – like surveys and boards - good for gathering a base

Deeper information – like focus groups - to ask follow up questions

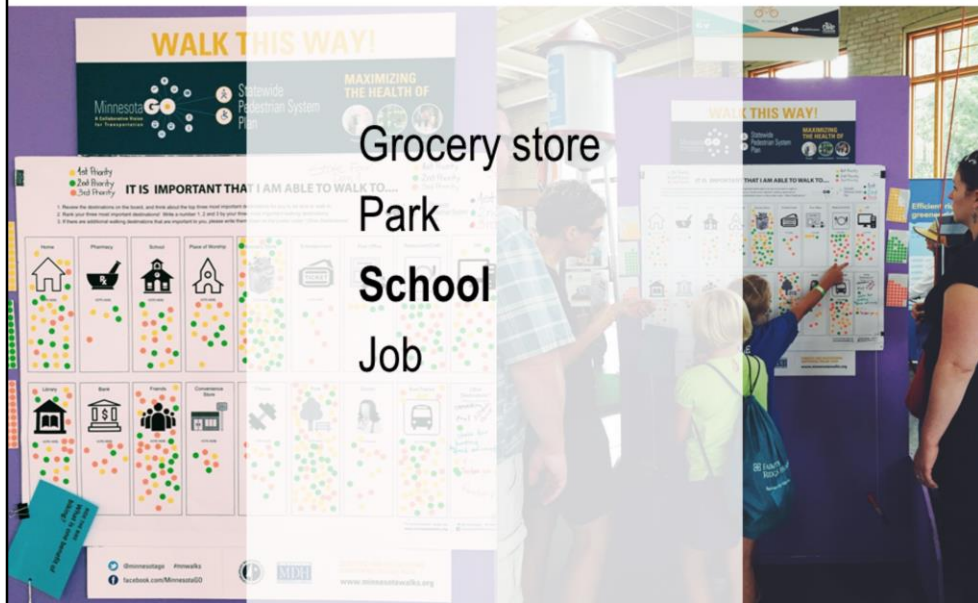
# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TOOLKIT



Methods – “meeting in a box”

High level – toolkit, make it easy, helps with geographic reach, helps with sharing ownership, course correction – also mention survey

## Activity #1: It is important that I am able to walk to...



Overarching themes – high level

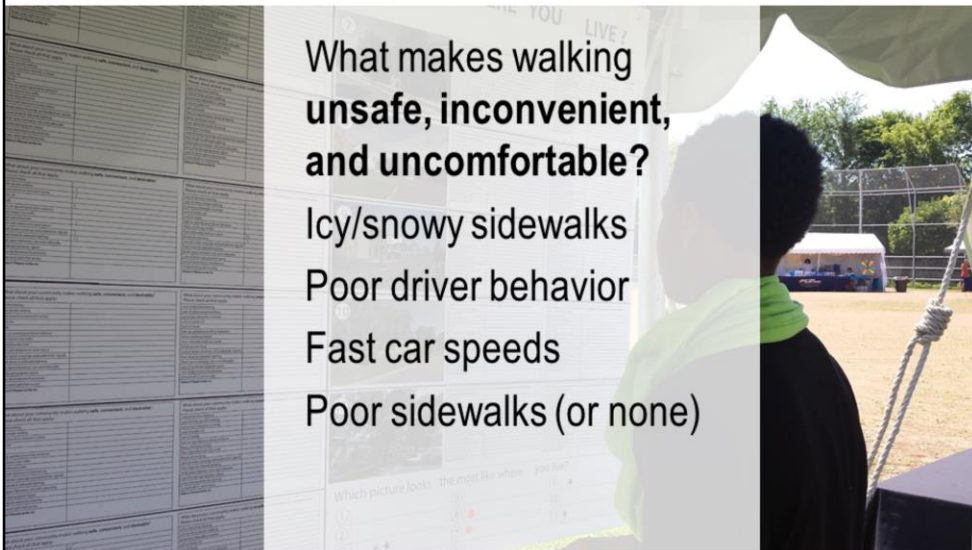
Kids/Families - **home**

Older adults - **place of worship**

Urban areas - **transit**



## Activity #2 – Hey, that looks like my street!



Overarching themes – high level

## Activity #2 – Hey, that looks like my street!



Overarching themes – high level

## Engaging Children and Youth



students  
speak out

- The majority of teens walk quite a bit. Primary destinations were friends' houses and school.
- Teens walk out of necessity (i.e., to school), but also for relaxation or exercise.
- **Safety, safety, safety.** Teens recommended making walking safer through: better lighting/more "eyes" on pedestrian areas, well-marked and controlled pedestrian crossings, keeping sidewalks free from snow/ice, separate bike and pedestrian paths and "pedestrian only" areas.
- Visual interest is important to teens. Public art, nice landscaping, holiday lights and interesting shops were all mentioned as important aesthetics.

In October of 2015, a teen-focused conversation was launched on Citizens League's online civic platform, Citizing! This conversation was designed to cover key topic areas to better understand teen perspectives. Six teen commentators were selected from a pool of over 60 applicants. The commentators formed the core discussion group; however, all teens were welcome to participate. The teen commentators were diverse in both race and geography.

# DESIGN FOR ALL

- ✚ ROADWAY & STREET DESIGN
- ✚ LAND USE & THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT
- ✚ FOSTERING CREATIVITY & PARTNERSHIPS
- ✚ LISTENING & PLANNING
- ✚ MINNESOTA WINTER AND YEAR ROUND UPKEEP
- ✚ BUILDING A CULTURE OF WALKING



# STRATEGIES & SRTS

## ✧ ROADWAY & STREET DESIGN

- ✧ Identify **priority networks for walking based on everyday destinations**, prevalence of people who rely on walking for transportation and network connectivity.
- ✧ Develop an understanding of how highways and county roads can be barriers for walking and strategies to address this issue.

## ✧ LAND USE & THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

- ✧ Design development that locates **schools, grocery stores, businesses, parks**, and other places that people regularly use **within walkable distance of each other**.
- ✧ Consider how students will be able to walk and bike safely and conveniently to school when **siting a new building and address who will pay for construction and maintenance** of pedestrian infrastructure.
- ✧ **Revise school siting policies so that distances between residential areas and schools are walkable for more students.**
- ✧ Encourage **policies that limit busing of students that live within a walkable distance** of their school.
- ✧ Invest resources in **pedestrian environments near frequent destinations that people walk to**, such as schools, grocery stores, parks, residential areas, transit stations, restaurants and other entertainment.

## ✧ FOSTERING CREATIVITY & PARTNERSHIPS

- ✧ **Recreate the model for Safe Routes to School to include other every day destinations such as parks and transit stops.**
- ✧ Partner with agencies and organizations who are involved in **improving personal safety, such as community police models like Bike Cops for Kids.**

## STRATEGIES & SRTS CONTINUED

### ✎ LISTENING & PLANNING

- ✎ Use walking audits to engage community members and practitioners.
- ✎ **Modify the engagement toolkit used for Minnesota Walks and make it available for local use.**
- ✎ **Develop and use feasible surveillance tools and methods to measure support** for walking in various settings, such as the community, worksites, and schools and expand their use in health, transportation and other relevant surveillance systems.

### ✎ MINNESOTA WINTER AND YEAR ROUND UPKEEP

### ✎ BUILDING A CULTURE OF WALKING

- ✎ **Use of Walk! Bike! Fun! and Safe Routes to School planning to educate and encourage students and parents about walking and biking to school.**
- ✎ **Generate public education and awareness campaigns to promote walking and walkability and link these campaigns with other activities meant to increase walking.**



## Safe Routes to Transit

- **Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (Section 5310) Small Urban and Rural Programs**
- **Building accessible paths to a bus stop that is currently inaccessible; including curb cuts, sidewalks, and accessible pedestrian signals.**
- Applications are for the 2017 contract year and are posted on the MNDOT Office of Transit Website at: [www.dot.state.mn.us/transit](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/transit)

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) Office of Transit is releasing applications for the 2017 publicly funded program year in the Rural and Small Urban areas. This application includes building accessible paths to a bus stop that is currently inaccessible; including curb cuts, sidewalks, and accessible pedestrian signals.

## How do we implement MN Walks?

- What training and resources are needed?
- What questions do you have?
- How can we support you advancing this work?

# Thank you!

- Jasna Hadzic-Stanek - MnDOT
  - [Jasna.Hadzic-stanek@state.mn.us](mailto:Jasna.Hadzic-stanek@state.mn.us)
- Kelly Corbin – MDH
  - [Kelly.corbin@state.mn.us](mailto:Kelly.corbin@state.mn.us)

## MN Walks & SHIP Activities

- Bike/Ped Counters
- Signage
- Walk Maps
- Pedestrian Plan or Safe Routes to School Plan
- Demonstration projects
- Community engagement activities –ex. walk audits
- Host Safe Routes to School to Academy

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Minnesota Safe Routes to School Update

Dave Cowan  
Safe Routes to School Coordinator  
Minnesota Department of Transportation





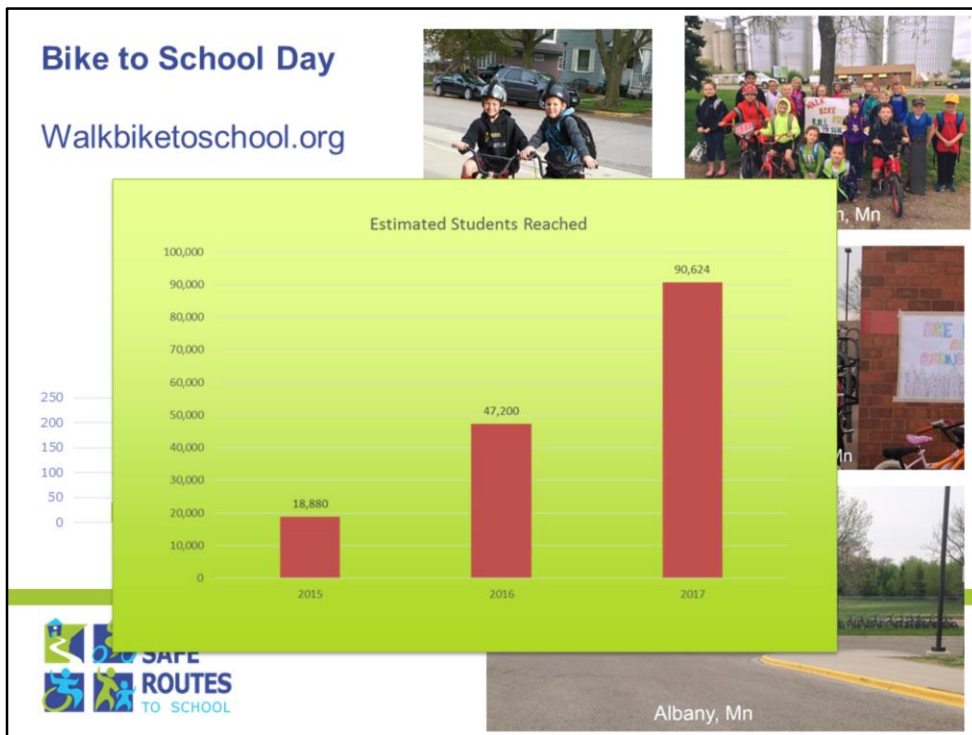


Entry level

Sign up and we can support with materials

Builds future champions into our network

Increases in the past couple of years

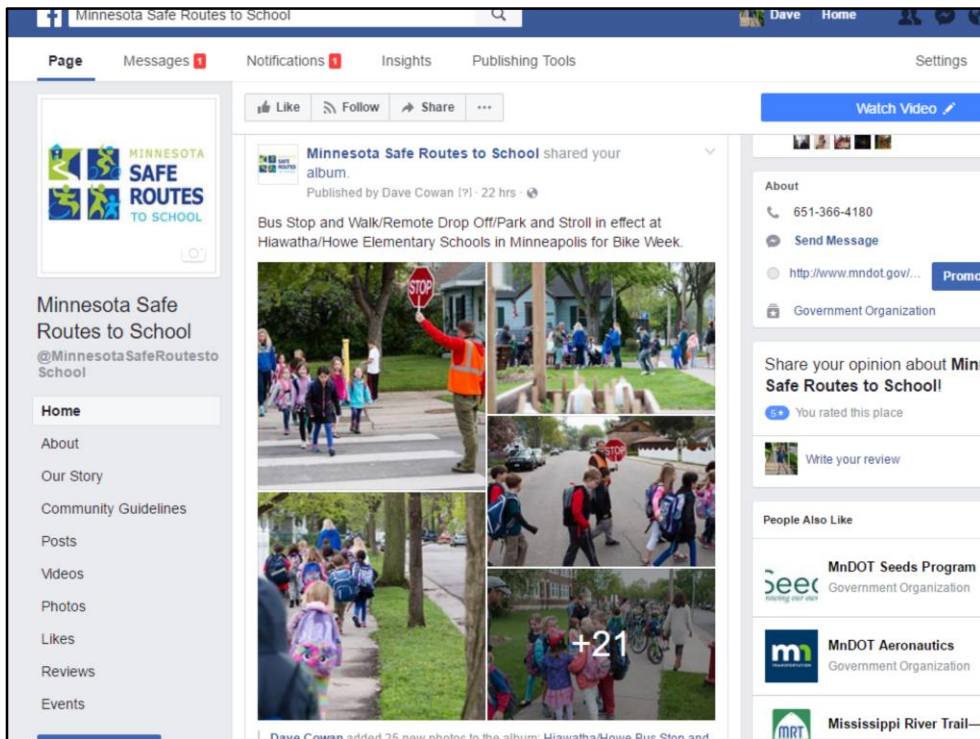


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To join the group... <https://www.facebook.com/MinnesotaSafeRoutestoSchool/>

## **WALK/BIKE TO SCHOOL DATES:**

**OCTOBER 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2017**

**FEBRUARY 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2018**

**MAY 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2018**



Implementation support

Funding

Capacity of rdcs

Evaluation

Completeness of an application (asks the most important questions)

Most planning work or largest # of students reached

## Poster Contest




**Bike to School Day**  
 Poster Contest Lesson Plan: Grades K-3


**Grade Levels**  
 Kindergarten-3rd


**Subject**  
 Bike benefits; bike safety


**Materials**  
 • 8.5" x 11" papers  
 • Markers, crayons, paint, pencils, or other drawing media


**Lesson Duration**  
 10-15 minutes


**Objectives**

- Get students thinking about why they enjoy biking
- Learn basic bike safety skills
- Design a bike-themed poster
- Have fun!





Using curriculum

Encouraging participation

Building visibility

[http://www.dot.state.mn.us/mnsaferoutes/programs/poster\\_contest.html](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/mnsaferoutes/programs/poster_contest.html)

Online Crossing  
Guard Training

Student Safety  
Patrol Training

Organizer's Guide  
to Bus Stop and  
Walk



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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- [SRTS Academy Application](#)
- 2017 National Walk Summit, St Paul, MN September 13 – 15, 2017  
- [Registration is Open](#)
- SRTS Meet Up Tuesday Sept 12 – Not an easy choice but we had a few more response in favor of aligning with Walk Summit.

SRTS Academy will keep the application open to request local/regional trainings throughout the year. We cannot guarantee we will always have capacity. However, the team thought we would have the ability to accommodate most. Link included above.

**BikeMN** hosts monthly network webinars that alternate focus areas between bicycle advocacy and bicycle education.

If you want to join either or both of the groups and listen in or participate in the next webinar, send an email to [natalie@bikemn.org](mailto:natalie@bikemn.org). You'll be added to one or both listservs and Google Groups, named MN Bicycle Advocates Network and MN Bicycle Educators Network.

Upcoming BikeMN Network topics:

May 17<sup>th</sup> @ 11:30am – **Educators** "Bicycle and Pedestrian Education for Diverse Audiences"

June 21<sup>st</sup> @ 11:30am – **Advocates** "Encouragement: Pecha Kucha" *Please submit an application*




<http://www.bikemn.org/blog/327-mn-bicycle-advocates-call-for-pecha-kucha-presentations>

**Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota**

"Together we're making Minnesota a place where  
bicycling is easy, safe and fun for everyone."



[www.bikemn.org](http://www.bikemn.org) • [info@bikemn.org](mailto:info@bikemn.org) • [t f /bikemn](https://www.facebook.com/bikemn)

THE MINNESOTA SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL NETWORK...

<b>MONTH</b> June 15, 10:00 – 11:00 AM	<b>TOPIC</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New SRTS Mapping Guide</li> <li>• Legislative Recap</li> </ul>
<b>MONTH</b> July 20, 10:00 – 11:00 AM	<b>TOPIC</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SRTS Evaluation Guidelines for MN Programs</li> <li>• Crossing Guard Resources</li> </ul>
<b>MONTH</b> August 17, 10:00 – 11:00 AM	<b>TOPIC</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TBD</li> </ul>

To join the Minnesota Safe Routes to School Network,  
 email [center.communications@bluecrossmn.com](mailto:center.communications@bluecrossmn.com)

SHIP is July 26 and 27. Would it work for Network members to have the SRTS Meet up occur with SHIP conference? Please email [Jill.chamberlain@bluecrossmn.com](mailto:Jill.chamberlain@bluecrossmn.com) with comments.



**THANK YOU.**

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